IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION NO: 3:05-CV-116-DCK

WANDA C. THREATT,)	
Plaintiff,)	
Tument,)	
v.)	<u>ORDER</u>
JOHN E. POTTER,)	
Postmaster General of the United States,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT on the parties' "Joint Application For Exemption From Mediation" (Document No. 23), filed March 10, 2008. The parties have consented to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), and this motion is now ripe for disposition.

Having carefully considered the motion, the record, and the comments of counsel for each party in a telephone status conference held today, the undersigned will reluctantly <u>grant</u> the motion. Respectfully, the Court is disappointed by the untimely request, just five (5) days before a report of mediation was due, and by an apparent lack of effort by both sides to diligently pursue alternative dispute resolution which is a requirement in this district. "All parties to civil actions are required to attend a Mediated Settlement Conference, unless otherwise ordered by the Court." (Local Rule 16.2(A)).

The parties are reminded that the Motions Deadline is **April 30, 2008**. If this case is not settled, or resolved by adjudication of a dispositive motion, it will go to trial in the term beginning **August 4, 2008**. Further extensions in this case are unlikely.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the parties' "Joint Application For Exemption From Mediation" (Document No. 23) is **GRANTED**.

Signed: March 13, 2008

David C. Keesler

United States Magistrate Judge